

Community Air Monitoring Workshop: Air Quality Priority: Pesticides

Purpose of This Document

- Summarize the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee (CSC) air quality concerns;
- Provide information on parts of the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) describing air monitoring strategies aimed at addressing air quality concerns regarding the use and application of pesticides;
- Gather feedback from the CSC

Community Concerns (CC)

The ECV CSC has expressed the following concerns regarding issues about the use and application of pesticides that may negatively impact air quality and the life of farm workers and local community members:

- CC-1 The unknown adverse health effects of pesticides applied in ECV and the odors emitted from them.
- CC-2 Pesticide drift into homes and schools near application sites.
- CC-3 The application of pesticides during school hours and a lack of regulatory enforcement.
- CC-4 The impacts on farm workers regularly exposed to pesticides, often in excessive amounts. and without proper personal protective equipment and/or training.
- CC-5 Pesticide run-off into streams and other tributaries that flow into the Salton Sea.
- CC-6 Pesticide toxicity and whether some pesticides should be banned or more heavily regulated.
- CC-7 The lack of a system to notify community members of pesticide applications and provides information to residents in order for them to make informed decisions about participating in outdoor activities (e.g., outdoor exercise).
- CC-8 Agricultural operators should find alternatives to pesticide use (e.g., organic farming).

Proposed Air Monitoring Strategies to Address Pesticides

Below are proposed air monitoring strategies to address CSC concerns about the use and application of pesticides.

Goals	Proposed Air Monitoring Strategies	Current Air Monitoring Activities	Seeking CSC Input
Pursue partnerships with agencies that have authority on pesticide use and application in order to develop a monitoring strategy for pesticide emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue collaborative partnerships with DPR, CARB and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to consider developing an air monitoring concept and work with California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to make pesticide and toxicity data more accessible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DPR to define the air monitoring purpose and develop a detailed plan that identifies the sampling equipment that will be used and where the sampling will take place Determine if a pesticide is present and at what levels to help determine the community impact Assess the monitoring data and if monitoring finds unacceptable pesticide levels in ambient air, work with DPR and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to take steps to identify potential exposure reduction measures, or to develop new use restrictions administered by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, or pesticide regulations Reach out to the CSC, local growers and the public to gather feedback on the collected data and other information that may help inform pesticide monitoring efforts <p>Community Concern(s) addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-3, CC-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Coast AQMD staff will pursue a collaborative partnership with other agencies to assess available data and develop a monitoring strategy. South Coast AQMD staff will continue to gather CSC input and begin to seek input from local growers and public members to help inform monitoring efforts as part of the AB 617 program and the implementation of CAMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any other monitoring purposes and objectives? Input on sampling locations Input on the key pesticides (e.g. what and when pesticides should be measured)



Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Eastern Coachella Valley Community South Coast Air Quality Management District

Input Gathering Worksheet for Monitoring of Pesticides

Please provide information and suggestions on potential monitoring locations and times (certain dates, months, seasons) for pesticide emissions.

Please list which pesticides you are mostly concerned about.

Please provide any input you may have regarding other monitoring purposes and objectives for pesticides.

Please include the name of any local grower and community members that may be able to provide additional information on pesticide use in ECV.

Note: Information provided by you on this worksheet (including contact or other personal information) is a public record and may be released in response to a California Public Records Act request.

CAMP Subchapter on Pesticides

Pesticides are unique among air toxic substances since they are produced specifically for their toxicity to a target pest and purposely introduced into the environment. Pesticides play a major role in agricultural production all around the world to help protecting crops from pests. Farming operations in the ECV commonly use pesticides on agricultural land. Pesticide rules mainly focus on regulating their sale, use and distribution, increasing and enforcing safety standards, assessing their toxicity, and protecting people by reducing the risk of harmful exposure.

The CSC expressed their concerns about the health impacts of pesticides used in agriculture, including exposure to farm workers, in residential areas (e.g., odor nuisance and pesticides exposure from wind drift or runoff), and in schools that are close to application sites. The CSC also emphasized their apprehension regarding the lack of information on the actual amount of pesticides being used in ECV, and the dates when pesticides are being applied. This information is critical for the public when planning to participate in outdoor activities.

Federal, State, and Local regulatory agencies are responsible for ensuring safe use of pesticides in California. At the Federal level, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approves the use of each pesticide. At the State level, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has legal authority to regulate and enforce rules that address the sale and use of pesticides in California. In addition, DPR monitors the levels of pesticides in the air, water and produce. The information regarding pesticides usage and the measured levels is reported periodically on DPR's public website¹.

South Coast AQMD will pursue a collaboration with California Air Resources Board (CARB) and consult with DPR and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) to develop a monitoring strategy to study the use of pesticides in ECV and work with scientists at public health agencies with expertise in pesticide toxicity to identify key pesticides of concern for air monitoring.

For the evaluation of existing pesticide data, South Coast AQMD staff will pursue opportunities for collaboration with CARB, and consult with DPR, Riverside CAC, and other agencies that currently have valuable information for identifying the potential impact of pesticides on this community. This analysis will be based on currently available datasets, such as annual pesticide usage, pesticide toxicity and volatility, season and method of application. This screening evaluation will identify the pesticides that are most impactful in this community and will provide valuable information for focusing subsequent air monitoring efforts. South Coast AQMD will also reach out to the CSC, members of the public and local growers to gather feedback on the collected data and any other information that may help inform the pesticide monitoring efforts.

South Coast AQMD staff will present the results of the data evaluation to the CSC. Following this screening process, staff will work with the CSC to identify the key pesticides of concern and will consult with DPR and CARB to evaluate which sampling and analysis techniques to be used, as appropriate and if possible. Then a plan to identify sampling locations, the extent of sampling, and the equipment that will be used for monitoring levels of key pesticides of concern will be developed. Air monitoring will be conducted to determine if specific pesticides are present and at what levels. If elevated concentrations of pesticides are found in ambient air, South Coast AQMD staff will work with DPR, CARB, and the Riverside CAC to identify potential exposure reduction measures. The screening analysis and the outcome results from this monitoring plan will lay the foundation for future assessments of the impact of pesticides on the ECV community and the regulations' effectiveness.

¹ <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pur/purmain.htm>